

December 5, 2016

Dear Alderman Cappleman,

The undersigned neighborhood organizations strongly support the Wilson Underline project and request your support in making this dream come true. To paraphrase Joni Mitchell, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to turn a parking lot into paradise. It would create a landscaped, green public space for food truck dining, public art, outdoor markets, community events and other public gatherings. It would enhance the entire Wilson L experience for the thousands of riders each day. It would create much needed excitement in Uptown and raise the bar for public transit stops throughout the City. It would encourage needed economic development along Wilson and Broadway. As you know, over 90% of the Uptown residents who participated in the spring survey support the project.

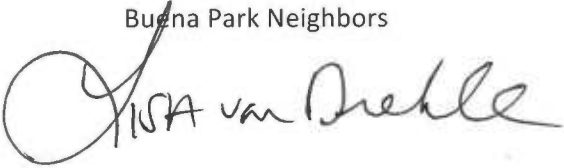
We understand that the CTA is concerned about crime and safety. No one is more concerned about those issues than we are and it is because of this concern that we so strongly support this project. Every study has shown that activating public space through smart and innovative design reduces crime and creates safer neighborhoods. Projects like this in Portland, Austin and New York City have proven that. Our own Millennial Park is an example of converting a lesser used space into an exciting area that draws people and reduces crime. We cannot let the fear of gang activity force us to hide in our houses and to surrender our public space. As neighborhood organizations, we are committed to working with the CTA and the Chicago police to make this a safe and secure area. We will do whatever is necessary to make this work.

We cannot make this happen without your support and leadership. We ask you, Alderman Cappleman, to lead us in the fight for the Wilson Underline project.

Thank you.

Buena Park Neighbors

Dover Street Neighbors Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa van Driehle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "L".

Sheridan Park Block Club

Magnolia Malden Neighbors Block Club

Beacon Block Club

Graceland Wilson Neighbors Association Block Club